

Van Doren's Mill  
Bernardsville, Somerset County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Van Doron's Mill  
Bernardsville, Somerset County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. William Childs

Date of Erection: 1842

Architect:

Builder: Ferdinand Van Doren

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Four

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone

Interior walls - unfinished

Roof - gambrel, wood  
shingles

Historical Data:

The present mill was built in 1842; it replaced an earlier mill built in 1768. This earlier mill stood at a dam with a seven foot fall; it was of frame construction. Grist was ground at this mill to feed Washington's army camped at Jockey Hollow in 1779.

Ferdinand Van Doren, when he decided to build a new mill, wanted a twenty foot fall of water so that he could triple his power. The foundation for the new

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mill was dug by a tramp who received bed, board, and tobacco for his services. He worked all winter and when spring came the ground was ready to build the mill.

The miller called his neighbors to a frolic and stones were hauled for building the mill. The story told by the family states that the mill was built in one year and that it cost five thousand dollars. The master mason was paid seventy-five cents per day; the other masons received fifty cents per day.

The mill resumed operations four years ago after fifteen years of idleness following a fire.

Bibliography:

A leaflet advertising the Old Mill Inn,  
Bernardsville, New Jersey

Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Melvin P. Ritt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Rw. Jan. 25.37 T.T.W.